

Marble Hill Press.

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Toilet soap is Gorky in overrated. Not here, though.

Boat is the skeleton in the Countess Castellan's closet.

The man who says he is not worthy of her, too frequently proves his point.

English public opinion has smothered the British soap trust in its swads.

The tedious now are that Santa Claus is going to carry every state in the union.

Crown Prince George of Serbia is said to be mentally sound—that is, for a crown prince.

Faint heart never wins fair lady; but, for that matter, neither does the faint heart account.

The man who manufactured chewing gum is dead, but the evil that he did lives after him.

Not only is the cost of living increasing, but the families are increasing at the usual rate.

New York burglars who travel in automobiles are doing what they can to make thieving a fine art.

They have found an asbestos mine in the Klondike. They would like to trade it for a coal mine.

This new disease called auto heart is probably produced by suddenly telling a man the price of the machine.

With meat, pickles and confectory under suspicion, the public may yet have to subsist on breakfast food.

Japan is conquering Manchuria commercially, which is a more substantial and lasting war than shooting holes through it.

A Berlin official in Germany has slept for two years. It would almost be worth while now to wake up and draw his salary.

Rev. Hugh Black, of Scotland, says "Hades is very much like New York." Dr. Black talks like a man who has been there and ought to know.

Dehorned spelling will never do. We "Jeralists" would never consent to having our time-honored slogan converted into "The pen is miltier than the sword."

The Buffalo Times tells of a boy who took several ounces of rough-horn rats without suffering any ill effects; but it appears that he worked in a drug store and took it to a customer.

There are expressions of disapproval among eminent Japanese of the education of women in this country. But Japan may be depended on to accept this phase of civilization along with the rest in the course of time.

The so-called soap trust in England is said to have been "busted" by a boycott. The method seems to be simple and effective. No trust, however big and presumably powerful, can succeed if the public refuses to purchase its products.

A Boston girl at Vassar told her chaperone that so far as she was concerned, she had no ambition further than to do her duty by the man she expected to marry and the children which were born to her. Isn't this a dangerous line of anticipation for a Boston girl?

Prof. Gallway of the department of agriculture some time ago floated a Japanese orange shoot on a Florida orange tree. When he picked the supposed oranges from the reconstructed tree he found they were lemons. Even nature has begun to laugh at grafters.

The Geological Survey having discovered that there are sufficient coal deposits in the United States to last 5,000 years, should continue its researches to determine whether there are enough of the precious metals, or even gems, in the earth to pay the coal bills through those centuries.

You can get to the north pole by drifting with the current, but it will take two or three years to reach there by this method, says a scientist. However, those who have plenty of time on their hands may try the plan proposed and trust to luck to get back to civilization and fertilization.

The auto is winning its way everywhere. It has stood the test of trials across the American continent. It has made a tour around the world, carried passengers to the frigid north and captured the fancy of the Grand Lama of Tibet. And now a venturesome enthusiast is to make a trip in the horseless vehicle through the desert of Sahara, once supposed to be given over to the camel caravans.

Gypsy Smith apparently believes that religion and humor can go well together. And why not? There is nothing gloomy about genuine piety. Heaven lies about us in our childhood, and it might all the rest of our lives if we were not so blamed pessimistic.

When a man can pull an ox at 70, as can President Elliot, it seems as if Dr. Oiler's 40-year limit had been wiped out.

If a man doesn't amount to anything, he boasts of his ancestors.

The dogfish has had its own way long enough in eating cod and haddock, but now he is to come into the market as food, and thus cease to be a constant menace to the fisherman's fares. Turn about is always fair play.

It is reported that a thunderstorm in Kansas shocked a whole field of corn—Pecora Herald Transcript. Well, that lightened the farmer's work, didn't it?

A foreign duke has captured another rich American girl.—Exchange. With his corset?

Physicians object to the simplified spelling of the names of diseases. The more formidable looking the name of their disorders the less patients will object to the size of the fee.

A university professor in Berlin says a man six feet high ought to have a seat one-quarter that distance—16 inches—from the ground, and his desk should be 39 inches high.

A London man played the piano 48 hours consecutively, proving his physical endurance, his idiosyncrasy and the patience of his neighbors.

PRESIDENT TELLS OF CONDITIONS IN PORTO RICO

Special Message the Result of Chief Executive's Recent Visit.

MUCH GOOD WORK DONE

Progress Made Under American Administration Is Pointed to with Pride—Last Year the Most Prosperous the Island Has Ever Known—Congress Urged to Confer Full American Citizenship Upon the Porto Ricans—Would Have All Insular Governments Placed in One Bureau.

Washington, President Roosevelt's message, describing conditions in Porto Rico, and making recommendations for legislation he believes necessary, was read to the congress. It is as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

On November 21 I visited the island of Porto Rico, landing at Ponce, crossing by the old Spanish road by Cayey to San Juan, and returning next morning over the new American road from Arecibo to Ponce; the scenery was wonderfully beautiful, especially among the mountains of the interior, which constitute a veritable tropic Switzerland. I could not embark at San Juan because the harbor has not been dredged out and can not receive an American battleship. I do not think this creditable to us as a nation, and I earnestly hope that immediate provision will be made for dredging San Juan harbor.

I doubt whether our people as a whole realize the beauty and fertility of Porto Rico, and the progress that has been made under its admirable government. We have just cause for pride in the character of our representatives who have administered the tropic island which came under our flag as a result of the war with Spain; and of no one of them is this more true than of Porto Rico. It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government.

I stopped at a dozen towns all told, and one of the notable features in every town was the gathering of the school children. The work that has been done in Porto Rico for education has been noteworthy. The main emphasis, as is eminently wise and proper, has been upon primary education; but in addition to this there is a normal school, and agricultural school, three industrial and three high schools. Every effort is being made to secure not only the benefits of elementary education to all the Porto Ricans of the next generation, but also as far as means will permit to train them so that the industrial, agricultural and commercial opportunities of the island can be utilized to the best possible advantage. It was evident at a glance that the teachers, both American and native Porto Ricans, were devoted to their work, took the greatest pride in it, and were endeavoring to train their pupils, not only in mind, but in what counts far more than mind in citizenship, that is, in character.

I was very much struck by the excellent character both of the insular police and of the Porto Rican regiment. They are both of them bodies that reflect credit upon the American administration of the island. The insular police are under the local Porto Rican government. The Porto Rican regiment of troops must be appropriated for by the congress. I earnestly hope that this body will be kept permanent. There should certainly be troops in the island, and it is wise that these troops should be themselves native Porto Ricans. It would be from every standpoint a mistake not to perpetuate this regiment.

In traversing the island even the most cursory survey leaves the beholder struck with the evident rapid growth in the entire both of the sugar cane and tobacco. The fruit industry is also growing. Last year the most prosperous year that the island has known, or more than the American occupation. The total of exports and imports of the island was \$45,000,000, as against \$39,000,000 in 1901. This is the largest in the island's history. Prior to the American occupation the greatest trade for any one year was that of 1899, when it reached nearly \$23,000,000. Last year, therefore, there was doubtless a trade that there was in the most prosperous year under the Spanish regime. There were 210,373 tons of sugar exported last year, of the value of \$14,183,219; \$2,555,163 of tobacco, and \$2,293,322 pounds of coffee of the value of \$3,481,102. Unfortunately, what used to be Porto Rico's prime export—has not shared this prosperity. It has never recovered from the disaster of the hurricane, and, moreover, the benefit of throwing open our market to it has not compensated for the loss inflicted by the closing of the markets to it abroad. I call your attention to the accompanying memorial on this subject of the board of trade of San Juan, and I earnestly hope that some measure will be taken for the benefit of the excellent and high grade Porto Rican coffee.

There is a matter with which I wish to call your special attention, and that is the desirability of conferring full American citizenship upon the people of Porto Rico. I most earnestly hope that this will be done. I can not see how any harm can possibly result from it, and it seems to me a matter of right and justice to the people of Porto Rico. They are loyal, they are glad to be under our flag, they are making rapid progress along the path of orderly liberty. Surely we should show our appreciation of them, our pride in what they have done, and our pleasure in extending recognition for what has thus been done, by granting them full American citizenship.

Under the wise administration of the present governor and council, marked progress has been made in the difficult matter of granting to the people of the island the largest measure of self-government that can with safety be given at the present time. It would have been a very serious mistake to have gone any farther than we have already gone in this direction. The Porto Ricans have complete and absolute autonomy in all their municipal governments, the only power over them possessed by the insular government being that of removing corrupt or incompetent municipal officials. This power has never been exercised on account of the absence of corruption or of incompetence—such as to jeopardize the interests of the people of the island; and under such circumstances it has been fearfully used to the immense benefit of the people. It is not a power with which it would be safe, for the sake of the island itself, to dispense at present. The lower house is absolutely elective, while the upper house is appointed by the governor, working well, as justice of any kind results from it, and great benefit to the island, and it should certainly not be changed at this time. The machinery of the elections is administered entirely by the Porto Rican people themselves, the governor and council keeping only such supervision as is necessary in order to insure an orderly election. Any protest as to electoral fraud is settled in the court of justice, and it would not be safe to make any change in the present system. The elections this year were absolutely orderly, unaccompanied by any disturbance; and no protest has been made against the management of the elections, although three contests are threatened where the majorities were very small and error was claimed; the contests, of course, to be settled in the courts. I trust, therefore, that the governor and council are co-operating with all of the most enlightened and most patriotic of the people of Porto Rico in educating the citizens of the island in the principles of orderly liberty. They are providing a government based upon each citizen's self-respect, and the mutual respect of all citizens; that is, based upon a rigid observance of the principles of justice and honesty. It can not be too easy to instill into the minds of people unaccustomed to the exercise of freedom the two basic principles of our American system; the principle that the majority must rule, and the principle that the minority has rights which must not be disregarded or trampled upon. Yet real progress has been made in having these principles accepted as the basis of the foundations of successful self-government.

I transmit herewith the report of the governor of Porto Rico, sent to the president through the secretary of state. All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of war or the department of state. It is a mistake not to so arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one island when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another.

In conclusion let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in it, I am able to take advantage of this law to say that it would be well-nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results. THEODORE ROOSEVELT. The White House, Dec. 11, 1906.

Spanish Custom in Decay.
Formerly the dowry of every peasant girl in Spain included a set of linen sheets. On account of the increased cost of linen, this branch of trade has dwindled down to an insignificant figure.

Behind on Rent.
"They say poor Shifter is ten years ahead of his time."
"Well, it's not true. I'm his landlord, and I know he's just six months behind."—Tribune.

Italy's King a Coin Collector.
The king of Italy's hobby is the collection of coins. In his collection are more than 50,000 specimens. Strange enough, he is not musical, much to the regret of his musical subjects, of whom there are so many in that land of sunshine and song.

Wooden Spoons in Brittany.
The making of wooden spoons is a handicraft of Brittany, and one of considerable importance, for wooden spoons are employed almost universally there for table use.

Veteran English Soldier Dead.
Harry D. Williams, whose death has occurred at Stourbridge, England, was a crisscross and Indian fighting veteran. He was in the Royal Horse Artillery, and altogether was present at 19 engagements.

Little Advancement Made.
Sir P. Trevelyan recently told a health society meeting in London that as regards the treatment of our meat before we eat it we have no advance on the habits of our ancestors, the cave dwellers.

PANAMA CANAL CONTRACTS

AMERICAN CONTRACTORS TO BE GIVEN FIRST CHANCE.

Send Out to \$2,000,000 and Right to Reject All Proposals Reserved.

Washington—Foreign contractors are to be barred from competition for the completion of the Panama canal. Chairman Shonts of the isthmian canal commission has made this announcement. Many changes have been agreed to in the form of the contract, but the most important is the limiting of proposals to American firms. The right will be reserved by the commission to reject all bids, and the commission will then either throw the competition open to foreign bidders or proceed with the work without contract. Jan. 12 is the date set for opening proposals.

A substantial reduction in the bond of the successful bidder was also made by the commission. It will be only \$2,000,000 and the total liability of the contractor is to be limited to the loss of percentage and premiums otherwise payable to the contractor, and \$2,000,000 in addition. Chairman Shonts indicated other changes as follows:

"To relieve the contractor from responsibility for the use of defective materials, provided he has requested the chief engineer in writing for the definite approval of the materials.

"To provide for a later change in the estimated cost and time of construction as originally agreed to by the engineer commission, in case the plans and specifications for the construction of the canal shall be materially altered in any respect; or if it shall be made to appear to the president that the estimates are based on physical data so erroneous as materially to affect the estimated cost and time of construction; or for any other material for which the contractor is not responsible."

MANY THOUSANDS KILLED.
Last Smoldering Sparks of Revolution in Russian Poland Subdued.

Warsaw, Russian Poland—Reports received from points throughout Russian Poland show that the government policy of firmness has been successful in subduing the last of the smoldering sparks of revolution. This result was accomplished at a terrible cost to the Polish people, the number of victims being estimated at thousands. Business had become stagnant, the trades and industries are bankrupt and the masses are despirited and in a state of poverty.

Reports from Czemstow, which is a typical Polish town, with a population of about 50,000, including many Jews, show that seven so-called terrorists have been tried by drumhead court-martial and executed in the last two days. In the early part of last week five terrorists were tried, convicted and shot here, as also were three at Sieradz, near Kalisz, two at Tomaszow and one at Lomza. These executions have been going on so constantly throughout Poland generally that it has become almost superfluous to repeat the daily chronicle of military executions.

AN ETHNOLOGICAL EXPEDITION.
Harvard Expedition to Study the Indians of the Andes Mountains.

Cambridge, Mass.—One of the most important ethnological expeditions in the history of Harvard university will soon leave under the leadership of Dr. W. C. Farrow, of South America to make an investigation among the Indian tribes of the Andes mountains. The general object of the expedition is under the leadership of Prof. F. W. Putnam, professor of American archaeology and ethnology at Harvard, while the expense will be met by an interested graduate whose name is not disclosed.

Patrick Asks for Life.
New York—The World says: Lawyer Albert T. Patrick, under sentence for the murder of Millionaire Rice, has signed a petition to Gov. Higgins, begging him to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment. John T. Milliken, brother-in-law of Patrick, spent a fortune to save his wife's brother from a lethal death, and is the one who insisted that Patrick should ask clemency. It is believed that the governor insisted on a personal letter of appeal from Patrick to the governor.

Empty Freight Cars in Yards.
Kansas City, Mo.—The Journal says: "A systematic inspection of the terminal railroad yards here shows that there are 3,000 empty freight cars standing idle in the Kansas City yards because the railroads have not sufficient motive power to move them. There are not less than 1,000 loaded cars standing in the yards here, and the dates of loading of some of them show that they have been ready to move for two weeks. There is no shortage of cars here, but a shortage of engines."

Six Men Met Instant Death.
Knoxville, Tenn.—Six men met instant death in a dynamite explosion 24 miles from Newport, Tenn., across the state line, in North Carolina. They were employed on an extension of the Tennessee & North Carolina road.

Burglars Lost an Arkansas Bank.
Fort Smith, Ark.—Robbers looted the safe in the bank of Lincoln, Ark., getting away with \$18,000, all it contained. The safe was wrecked and the building partially demolished by an explosion of nitroglycerin.

The Fly Collides with a Freight.
Canton, O.—The Pennsylvania flyer, eastbound, at Canton at 9:35, collided with a freight car, and the freight car was killed and the flyer was killed.

The Longworths in an Accident.
Washington—Representative and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth were on their way to the station platform at Chevy Chase, a suburb. The occupants were uninjured.

Charged with Being a Mormon.
Boise, Idaho—A protest against the election of Alfred D. Stephens, as judge of the Fifth district, has been filed in the district court of Bannock county, on the ground that he is a Mormon.

Rebuilding the Campanile Halted.
Venice—The work of rebuilding the Campanile, which collapsed July 14, 1902, is not being pushed, owing to a controversy as to the method of construction and the material to be used.

Billions From Agriculture.
Farm production was thought to have reached its highest point in 1905, but this year has far eclipsed all others and rolled up a total which now promises to reach the stupendous sum of \$7,000,000,000—Farming.

State Happenings.

About Missouri Schools.

Jefferson City—The forthcoming annual report of State Superintendent of Public Schools Carrington will contain a statement that St. Louis has an assessed valuation of \$240,000 per teacher employed, and pays an average salary of \$720, while Kansas City, with an assessed valuation of \$110,000 per teacher employed, pays an average salary of \$810.

The compulsory attendance law brought 32,263 children into school the first year it was adopted.

The highest annual salary paid a rural teacher in Missouri is \$600 for a term of eight months, or \$75 per month; the lowest is \$60, for a term of four months, or \$15 per month; the average is below \$300.

The average levy for school purposes in Missouri is \$100, assessed valuation, while in the cities and towns it is about \$2 cents.

There is a greater demand for trained teachers than was ever before known. The normal schools were well attended. The enrollment in these five schools since September 1, in round numbers, as follows: Kirksville, 600; Warrensburg, 700; Cape Girardeau, 400; Springfield, 200; Maryville, 200.

Lived in Three Centuries.
Springfield—Levi Boster died at his home near Houston, Texas county, aged 116 years. He was born in 1790, and had lived in Missouri since 1848. He always wore homespun clothing, cowhide boots and hickory shirt. His white hair fell over his shoulders and he had worn a long gray beard for over half a century. Boster voted for Andrew Jackson for president, and had voted for every other democratic candidate for president since. He is survived by two sons, William B. Boster, who is 76 years old, and "Doc" Boster, 67 years old.

No More Stay For Aggie Meyers.
Jefferson City—Gov. Folk has refused the importunities of persons living in Ray county to grant to Aggie Meyers, under sentence of death and to be hanged January 18, a 60-day respite from that date. Under his instructions, Pardon Attorney Mosby so wrote those persons. The governor declares emphatically that, having granted four respites in this case, he will not yield further in the same direction.

There Will Be a Shower of Presents.
St. Louis—Little 19-month-old Dorothy Kimmey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allison N. Kimmey, of 4143 Lindell boulevard, will be remembered during the holidays by more grandparents and great-grandparents than any other baby in St. Louis, for she probably has a larger number of direct ancestors living than any other baby in the city. Besides the father and mother, the baby has five great-grandparents and four grandparents living.

Want a Midnight Closing Law.
Jefferson City—Seventy-five per cent of the crime is traceable to one day, for which the farmers received nearly \$3,500 from local merchants. All records for one day's business in taverns were blocked with wagons. A special car loaded with turkeys and 70 coops additional were shipped out.

Heavy Postoffice Receipts.
Washington—The receipts of the St. Louis postoffice for the month of November were \$238,274, an increase of 4.13 per cent over November of last year. Kansas City, \$137,694, a gain of 3.45 per cent, and St. Joseph \$29,379, a gain of 6.52 per cent.

Shook Hand of Daughter's Slayer.
Springfield—Garland Moore, who killed Clara West at Bois d'Arc, was warmly greeted in court by the mother and father of the slain girl, who crowded forward to shake his hand as the mother of the murdered girl.

A Belle of Long Ago.
St. Louis—Mrs. Amelia Chouteau Churchill, a member of one of the oldest families in St. Louis, and in her younger days a famous belle and beauty, died at her home in Louisville, Ky.

Safe Robbery at Drexel.
Drexel—The Interstate bank here was robbed of \$4,600. The doors of the safe were blown off. Secured tools from blacksmith shop.

Bad Fire at Rolla.
Rolla—Fire destroyed a portion of the business section of this city, entailing a loss of \$65,000. Citizens and firemen controlled it.

Large Cargo of Cotton.
St. Louis—The steamer Stacker Lee arrived here the other day with 1,023 bales of cotton. The cargo covered an acre of the wharfage.

Died From a Fall.
St. Louis—Alfred Gross, 31, of Perry county, stepped from a doorway onto the sidewalk and fell, fracturing his skull. He died.

A Foolish Girl.
Clinton—Miss Carrie Still, 20, committed suicide at Creighton when she learned that a Kansas City man had proved false.

What Trained Nurses Want.
St. Louis—Trained nurses will ask the legislature to enact a law requiring nurses to register in order to practice.

Mrs. Minnie Grunwald.
St. Charles—Mrs. Minnie Grunwald, aged 54, died at her home in this city. She leaves five grown children.

Murdered in Mexico.
Mexico—A telegram from Del Rio, Tex., tells of the murder of Blake Cartwright there. He was the son of a prominent Austin social family.

Enthusiastic For River Improvement.
St. Louis—A number of influential citizens who have been in Washington return fully convinced congress will improve western rivers.

Missouri Wheat.
Washington—Missouri has now more winter wheat this year than last. The average condition is 91; two-year average, 91.

Lavender Creighton's Lovers

By OLIVIA B. STROHM

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CHAPTER XXI.—CONTINUED.

She only said: "I understand," and they went on in silence to where the horse was tethered by the wayside. The old girl, its dusty sides flapping in the wind, stretched empty shafts, like long, hungry arms, across the road. Lavender climbed into the seat, to await the return of Gonzaga, who had taken the horse to drink from the hollow log at the rear of the church. Alone and unobserved, Lavender drew the slip of paper from the little black bag that hung at her waist. Through tears which dimmed the scrawling characters she read the words:

"She will be there; she needs you; come secretly—I ask this favor by my double right. Belle Price."

Unnoticed she sat apart from the crowd which was dispersing now with feet and banter.

Unnoticed—save by two men, who, starting to walk to the village, looked back, and stopped at sight of her. Winslow shaded his eyes. Even at this distance he recognized the graceful heap of muslin in the dusty girl. He stared long, but said nothing, and made no move in her direction.

"My brother will not go, then?" for Gonzaga had declined his master's invitation—knew his desire to join her whom his eyes held thus in mute gaze, admiring, tender.

To his surprise, the answer was sudden, vehement. "No, Owatoga, I will not go. It would only make me feel more the fool of fortune when that Spanish bravo blusters up with his air of ownership. Some day, I shall find out why he dares."

"Owatoga knows," said the Indian, circularly.

Winslow looked up. "You think it is because of what the preacher said? He thinks to marry her?"

Then as the other gravely nodded: "Let his thoughts beguile him, then," and a harsh laugh graced through the shut teeth. "He shall never have her! We must prevent it, Owatoga; he must not marry her; and he, turned swiftly down the road with futile anger in his heart."

He failed to note that the Indian did not follow. Intent upon his unhappy thoughts, he did not hear the significant repetition of his words: "He must not have her," with which Owatoga went back—straight to the girl in the wagon.

At the Indian's approach, she slipped the yellow envelope with its—her ominous revelation, again into the bag.

"Good morning, Owatoga. I feared you were not going to grant me as much as a nod of your feather to-day," she said, with forced lightness.

But he had no time to return in pleasantry; the Spaniard might wait at any moment. He placed one great



THE SHALL NOT HAVE HER: WE MUST PREVENT IT, OWATOGA.

tawny hand on the dash-board, and his eyes were on a level with her own. "The white maiden came with yonder one," he pointed down the way the Spaniard had taken.

Lavender bowed without speaking. "The white maid will be with him—always."

To gain time, she feigned ignorance of his meaning. "Be with him?" she echoed, inquiringly, and he repeated: "He will take the white maid for his squaw?"

Lavender winced, and her laugh was high and forced, as she replied: "We do not call it that; we say 'wife.'"

"It is the same," the other insisted. "Then as she had not answered him: 'You will be his wife?' he demanded, sternly.

There was a moment's hesitation, while Lavender stared into the woods opposite. Just then her hand touched the stolen bag, and the paper she had crushed into it rustled a reminder.

This was the feather in the scale. She raised her head. "Yes," and she met his stolid gaze defiantly. To her surprise, he only said, with utmost irrelevance: "Come with me—Owatoga has something to show." Then as she hesitated to move: "Then as she hesitated: 'It is a boon. Owatoga craves; he would take a walk with the white maiden,' and his stern mouth relaxed in a half smile, and, indeed, why not? She had often taken long walks with him as guide, and he was ever faithful, interesting. Besides, it suited her defiant mood to be absent when Gonzaga should return.

She extended her hand. Owatoga assisted her to the ground, and led the way at once into the forest—a dense cavern to the south. On he strode into the heart of the wood, nor paused until the river lay before them—a great glacial image of the sky. She gave a gasp of delight. "Oh, the view; it is indeed beautiful."

She stood on a gentle rise of ground, with the Missouri rolling in its muddy current at her feet. Silent, secret-barred enough, the land wore that gray land-darkening now, with twilight shadows over all, and the world about it might lurk, brooded over by giant tamaracs and a starling sky.

"And you brought me to see the view, Owatoga? It is so lovely, so vivid!"

He only said: "I understand," and they went on in silence to where the horse was tethered by the wayside. The old girl, its dusty sides flapping in the wind, stretched empty shafts, like long, hungry arms, across the road. Lavender climbed into the seat, to await the return of Gonzaga, who had taken the horse to drink from the hollow log at the rear of the church. Alone and unobserved, Lavender drew the slip of paper from the little black bag that hung at her waist. Through tears which dimmed the scrawling characters she read the words:

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